

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 12-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5 and 10, and added new Claim 19. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, as support therefor is found throughout the specification and drawings.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 10 and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the phrases "entirely-ON" and "partially-ON" as being indefinite. Applicant's representative believes that the amendments made to the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the inventive subject matter. For further background information, the Applicant's representative would also refer the Examiner to paragraphs 95, 115 and 119 of the subject application as published. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been obviated and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,397 to Zhang et al. In view of the amendments herein, the Examiner's grounds for rejection are herewith traversed, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Zhang et al. teach an illumination device that is repeatedly turned off and restarted. Zhang et al. merely teach independent discharge control of gas discharge tunnels with time sequential color mixing to produce color images without the use of a color filter. Zhang et al. disclose introducing an amount of priming charged particles to reduce the ignition voltage applied to the discharge electrodes so that starting reliability is improved (see col. 5, lines 3-8). As noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, the illumination device of Zhang et al. is either on or off.

In contrast, Claim 5 recites an illumination control device having, *inter alia*, at least one illumination device and a driving waveform generation section for generating a repetitive waveform having a first period and a second period during which an image is displayed. During the first period, the driving waveform generation section

applies a first voltage to the at least one illumination device, the first voltage causing the at least one illumination device to be turned entirely-ON, and the driving waveform generation section applies the first voltage between the two main discharging electrodes during the first period. During the second period, the driving waveform generation section applies a second voltage to a portion of the at least one illumination device, wherein the second voltage is different from the first voltage, and the driving waveform generation section applies the second voltage between the partial discharging electrode and the one main discharging electrode in the vicinity of the partial discharging electrode. Zhang et al. do not disclose or suggest such a driving waveform generation section for generating a repeating waveform of a first and second voltage that are different.

Accordingly, Claim 5 and Claim 6, depending from Claim 5, distinguish the subject invention from Zhang et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10 and 12-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,397 to Zhang et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,657,607 to Evanicky et al.

As noted above, Zhang et al. teach an illumination device that is repeatedly turned off and restarted. Zhang et al. disclose introducing an amount of priming charged particles to reduce the ignition voltage applied to the discharge electrodes so that starting reliability is improved (see col. 5, lines 3-8). As noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, the illumination device of Zhang et al. is either on or off.

Evanicky et al. discloses a LCD display with red, green and blue light sources. To vary the color temperature, one of the light sources is operated at maximum brightness while the other light sources are dimmed. To dim the light sources of Evanicky et al., a different voltage is applied to the entire light source.

There is nothing in either of these references that discloses or suggests, either alone or in combination, in whole or in part, the device defined by Claim 1 of the subject application. In particular, there is nothing in either Zhang et al. or Evanicky et al. which discloses or suggests, an illumination device that includes, *inter alia*, at least one illumination device having a first portion and a second portion, the light modulation information display device being operable so as to have a first period and a second period

during which an image is displayed. During the first period, the driving waveform generation section applies a first voltage to the second portion of the at least one illumination device, the first voltage causing the second portion of the at least one illumination device to be turned entirely-ON, and during the second period, the driving waveform generation section applies a second voltage to the first portion of the at least one illumination device wherein the second voltage is different from the first voltage and the second voltage is a partially-ON voltage for causing the first portion of the at least one illumination device to be illuminated such that the at least one illumination device sustains a discharging state. As a result, the partially-ON voltage is not applied to the entire illumination device and a discharging state occurs on a portion of the illumination device rather than just a simple one time priming. Therefore, Claim 1 of the subject application and each of the claims depending therefrom are not rendered obvious by the combination of references cited by the Examiner, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Turning to Claim 10, a light modulation information display device is recited. There is nothing in either of these references that discloses or suggests, either alone or in combination, in whole or in part, the device defined by Claim 10 of the subject application. The light modulation information display device includes, *inter alia*, a light modulation information display section and an illumination control device comprising at least one illumination device having two main discharging electrodes and a partial discharging electrode. The at least one illumination device has a length greater than a corresponding dimension of the light modulation information display section with a first region corresponding to the light modulation information display section and a second region not corresponding to the light modulation information display section. One of the two main discharging electrodes is disposed in the first region, and the other of the two main discharging electrodes and the partial discharging electrode are disposed in the second region, wherein the at least one illumination device undergoes an entirely-ON state between the two main discharging electrodes and a partially-ON state between the other of the two main discharging electrodes disposed in the second region and the partial discharging electrode such that during the partially-ON state, the at least one illumination

device provides light that is outside the light information display section. As a result, the entire illumination device is not dimmed, rather a portion is activated with a second voltage not just a simple priming voltage. Therefore, Claim 10 of the subject application and each of the claims depending therefrom are not rendered obvious by the combination of references cited by the Examiner, and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or overpayments due as a result of filing the present paper may be applied to Deposit Account No. 04-1105. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 29, 2004


George N. Chaclas
Reg. No. 46,608
Edwards & Angell LLP
Attorney for Applicant
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209-9169
Tel: (860) 541-7720
Fax: (888) 325-1684